

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY GROUP

February 27, 2003
MAG Office
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Greg Binder, Phoenix, Chair

*Kevin Hinderleider¹, Avondale

T Jim Keen for Betsy Wise¹, Carefree

Pat McDermott, Chandler

**Mike Ciccarone¹, Fountain Hills

*Shawn Woolley², Gilbert

Ajay Joshi for Jerry Wightman, Glendale

*John Imig¹, Goodyear

*Cary Parker², Maricopa County

Shirl Butler, Mesa

*Duncan Miller¹, Paradise Valley

Ralph Spencer, Peoria

*Kazi Haque, Queen Creek

Kevin Sonoda, Scottsdale

Randy Jackson, Surprise

*John Laue¹, Tempe

Bruce Johnson¹ for Ralph Velez, Tolleson

*Karen Strickland, ADOT

Randi Alcott¹, RPTA

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

T Dave Evertsen, Gila Bend

T Mark Johnson, Guadalupe

**Mark Goldstein, IRC

Vernon Reed, Greater Flagstaff Economic
Council

David Haines, Kimley Horn and Associates

Audrey Skidmore, MAG

**Craig Chenery, MAG

Debbie Kohn, MAG Telecommunications Assoc.

Heidi Pahl, MAG

Rita Walton, MAG

**Steve Brodsky, RW Beck

**Participated via telephone conference call.

T Participated via video conference call.

1 RVS Site Coordinator

2 RVS Backup Site Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chair, Greg Binder. Voting members Mike Ciccarone attended via telephone conference call and Jim Keen attended via videoconference. All members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of January 23, 2003 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Randy Jackson seconded by Ralph Spencer and unanimously recommended to approve the January 23, 2003 meeting minutes.

3. Announcements and Public Input

Greg Binder announced that a Resolution of Appreciation was created for Jim Hull, honoring his contributions to the MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group (MAGTAG). He noted that Jim Hull demonstrated dedication to various regional projects, he actively participated in workshops and forums, was a member of MAGTAG since its inception in 1994 and served as the Chair of the MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group from 2000 to 2002. Mr. Binder presented the Resolution of Appreciation for Jim Hull to Shirl Butler of Mesa. Debbie Kohn expressed her gratitude to Jim Hull.

Rita Walton announced that MAG has licensed aerial photography that member agencies can also use on the same license for free. She said that interested agency staff should contact either her or Harry Wolfe at MAG. Greg Binder asked how MAG uses aerial photography. Rita Walton replied that it is used in reviewing population estimates, updating the street centerline file, in graphics displays, and for planning purposes.

Randy Jackson invited TAG members to tour the new Surprise baseball stadium.

Greg Binder announced that the City of Phoenix now offers e-payment for such items as water bills and parking tickets.

4. Regional Community Network Study

Debbie Kohn gave a presentation on the Regional Community Network (RCN) Study. Ms. Kohn reviewed the Study components, status of the Study, RCN alternatives, recommendations and the timeline.

Dave Evertsen asked how Gila Bend has been included in the RCN Study process. Debbie Kohn responded that Gila Bend has been involved in the member agency needs assessment and the information was incorporated into the design of the entire network.

Greg Binder asked if the Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council's gathering of cyber-security information has been incorporated into the RCN Study. David Haines replied that security issues such as encryption and firewalls are included in the RCN Study.

5. Government Information Technology Agency (GITA) Update

Vernon Reed, Director of Telecom Strategy and Planning for the Greater Flagstaff Economic Council gave a presentation reviewing the findings of the State Telecom Pilot Assessments. Heidi Pahl stated that Brad Tritle is sick and unable to attend MAGTAG. Greg Binder thanked Mr. Reed for an informative presentation and asked if any other states have difficulty obtaining broadband. Mr. Reed responded that more than 40 states live with the same issues as Arizona. He noted that some states are lucky because development occurs along major thoroughfares and it is easy to get broadband to businesses and residents when development occurs this way. Greg Binder asked if the Northern Arizona Telecommunications Study is closely aligned with the Government Information Technology Agency (GITA). Mr. Reed replied yes.

Pat McDermott asked how the middle mile costs were calculated. Vernon Reed said that he got the number from the person in Northern Arizona who has installed 80% of the fiber. Kevin Sonoda asked if the costs were for ploughing or trenching. Vernon Reed said the cost was for ploughing and that the cost of fiber was excluded.

6. Review of MAGTAG Working Group Sessions

Randy Jackson stated that the Information Sharing working group is working on planning a future MAGTAG discussion on the topic of videoconferencing in the courts and the group is thinking of hosting a workshop on this topic if there is sufficient interest. Greg Binder asked if the focus would be on technical or procedural issues of videoconferencing in the courts. Randy Jackson replied both.

On behalf of Cary Parker, Chair of the Regional Telecommunications Strategic Planning (RTSP) working group, Kevin Sonoda gave a presentation on the RTSP working group progress and distributed the draft RTSP recommendation. Mr. Sonoda reviewed the RTSP background, tasks accomplished, RTSP priorities and next steps. He stated that priority one was wired buildings and priority two was telecommunications assessments. Greg Binder thanked Kevin Sonoda for the presentation. Pat McDermott asked if the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) would be involved in the RTSP. Kevin Sonoda replied that partnership opportunities exist with economic development entities such as GPEC.

Randi Alcott asked why MAGTAG is promoting priority two, telecommunications assessments. Randy Jackson stated that the City of Surprise applied to the State for funding for a Community Telecommunications Assessment (CTA). He added that Queen Creek also applied for this funding. He noted that funding for this project for Surprise has not yet been approved and may never be approved, therefore he is interested in looking at other avenues for funding this project. Kevin Sonoda said that priority two has more of a localized benefit than a regional benefit. Debbie Kohn pointed out that there are agencies at a sub-regional level that could participate in a CTA, for example in the West Valley there are several member agencies that may want to band together to request a sub-regional assessment.

Rita Walton reminded TAG that the RTSP will use MAG planning funds. Ms. Walton added that if the working group recommends priority two that they must create a strong justification for the project and define how it will benefit the region. She added that it might be beneficial to first determine the cost of priority one.

Ms. Walton thoroughly agreed that GPEC should be involved but reminded the TAG that GPEC does not represent all member agencies.

Randi Alcott asked how much money was available for the RTSP. Rita Walton responded \$200,000.

Greg Binder asked the RTSP working group to continue to refine their recommendation and asked if it was reasonable for a recommendation to be ready by the April TAG meeting.

Randy Jackson mentioned that the CTA has components that are global in nature and the RTSP working group may want to consider funding only those portions of it. Kevin Sonoda responded that the working group would focus on refining the recommendation with the goal of bringing a recommendation to MAGTAG in April.

Pat McDermott gave an update on the Additional Sites and Outreach (ASAO) Working Group draft recommendations. Mr. McDermott stated the group looked at alternatives to the existing Regional Videoconferencing System (RVS). He said that draft recommendation one is to provide one high quality speaker phone to each RVS conference room at member agency sites, if they need a phone. He said the group thinks recommendation one would be a good utilization of the money and it is within the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) guidelines. Mr. McDermott presented draft recommendation two, additional marketing and training for the existing MAG RVS. He said that the group decided to divide this item into two separate small contracts, one for marketing videoconferencing to MAG and member agency staff and one contract for training. Mr. McDermott said that draft recommendation three is a H.323 Proof of Concept and Pilot Project. He noted that the group is going to learn more about migrating the current H.320 video protocol videoconference equipment to a more affordable H.323 video protocol. Mr. McDermott stated that the fourth draft recommendation was to purchase a web based scheduling package for the existing RVS in order to increase utilization and make it easier for people to schedule and document audio and videoconferences. Mr. McDermott noted that the group needs to meet a couple more times before a final recommendation will be presented to MAGTAG. He added that the group will most likely not use all of the funds allocated to them.

Rita Walton asked if the ASAO working group will have a recommendation for the remainder of the funds. Pat McDermott said that the group recommends keeping the money and carrying the unused portion to next year.

Greg Binder noted that the recommendation needs to be well planned and justified. Pat McDermott responded that TAG has already invested 1.5 million dollars in the MAG RVS and RVS usage is slowly increasing, although not as great as expected. He stated that he believes small continued investments are necessary.

7. Date of Next Meetings

Greg Binder said that the next meeting is March 27, 2003 from 10 AM to noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.